(b) The instructions are being reiterated to Zonal Railways to strictly adhere to this time frame.

Rail booking through internet

2864. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are planning to introduce rail bookings through internet in major cities;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the names of cities where this facility would be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The modalities for Internet based rail booking for reserved accommodation are getting worked out and would be first tested as a pilot project to firm up the modalities. The extension of the facility to various cities would arise only on the basis of the experience gained from the pilot project.

Action on MPs' letter to Ministry of Railways

2865. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Railways is not taking any action on the MPs' letters; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) how many letters have been received for transfer of Railways personnel from Eastern Railway to other Zones/offices or DLW, Varanasi since 1999, till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. Does not arise.

(b) Total 230 letters have been received from MPs since 1999.

Acquisition of land at Eravipuram Railway Station

2866. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:.

(a) what was the purpose of acquiring 30 cents of land adjacent to Eravipuram railway station in Kollam, and how much money has been spent for the said acquisition of land;

(b) whether the Railways have achieved the purpose of acquisition;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Ministry has received a memorandum from Eravipuram Railway User's Association; and

(f) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) the land adjacent to Eravipuram railway station was acquired in 1998 at a cost of Rs. 7,37,489/for proposed conversion of the existing Halt station to Flag station.

(b) to (d) Land was acquired considering the expected future requirements of development of this station.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Abolition of Railway Board

2867. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to abolish the Railway Board; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) At present no proposal is under consideration of the Government for abolition of Railway Board.

Averted rail accident at Varakkalpattu

2868. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an accident of a passenger train was averted at Varakkalpattu in Cuddalore district on 25th June, 2001, by the timely action of the train driver; and